

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

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COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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SUBJECT Strategy of the People's Party

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SUPPLEMENT

1. The leadership of the People's Party is taking increasing cognizance of the present crisis within the Slovak Democratic Party. The Catholic group within the Slovak Democratic Party is exerting pressure against the leadership of the Protestant group led by Josef Lettrich, Jan Ursiny, and Fedor Hodža. The latter denounce the Catholic dissidents as old Ulinka guardists and would probably be willing to unload them on Monsignor Srámek's People's Party on a condition that Slovak Democrats be permitted to organize in Bohemia and Moravia.
2. Msgr. Srámek is currently opposed to admitting the Slovak Catholics, for most of them are ultra montane; and he is also opposed to Slovak Democrats organizing themselves in Bohemia.
3. In a recent secret strategy meeting of the People's Party, Doctor Zavadil, formerly a high official in the political intelligence service under Bartík in London, who now operates the intelligence of the People's Party, reported his findings that the Communist Party is losing members, that the Social Democrats are making substantial gains, and that the People's Party is registering a slight increase in strength. If the present trend continues, the Communists might make a definite maneuver to open Bohemia and Moravia to Slovak Democrats in order to maintain their own plurality. Organizing against this eventuality, the leader of the People's Party is seeking to create a front of the three non-Communist parties to refuse Slovak Democrats organizing rights in Bohemia.

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